

Science Project: Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (CLR11)

Summary: SC02000028/TS

Like most industrial societies, the UK has a considerable legacy of land affected by contamination, often arising from past land use but also from some natural or diffuse sources. Where land has been affected by contamination it may present a risk to a range of receptors including humans, ecosystems, water quality, and property including crops and animals. Current and future use of the land may be adversely affected. Moreover, such potential risks, and uncertainty regarding risks, may inhibit the development or redevelopment of land, and in some cases contribute to long-term dereliction and increasing pressure to develop greenfield land.

The Model Procedures have been developed to provide the technical framework for applying a risk management process when dealing with land affected by contamination. The process involves identifying, making decisions on, and taking appropriate action to deal with land contamination in a way that is consistent with government policies and legislation within the UK. This document is consistent with the approach presented within the "Guidelines for Environmental Risk Assessment and Management" published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the Environment Agency and the Institute for Environment and Health (2000).

The technical approach presented in the Model Procedures is designed to be applicable to a range of non-regulatory and regulatory contexts that includes:

- Development or redevelopment of land under the planning regime;
- Regulatory intervention under Part IIA of the Environment Protection Act 1990 or Part III of the Waste & Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997;
- Voluntary investigation and remediation;
- Managing potential liabilities of those responsible for individual sites or a portfolio of sites.

The Model Procedures consist of three parts – Procedures, Supporting Information and the

Information Map. These provide a hierarchy of information in which Part 1 sets out the framework of the risk management process, Part 2 provides further technical detail to support the process and Part 3 contains sources of further information and guidance.

The Model Procedures are intended to assist all those involved in dealing with land contamination, including landowners, developers, professional advisors, regulatory bodies and financial providers.

This Summary relates to information from Science Project SC02000028 reported in the following report: -

Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (CLR 11).

ISBN Number 1844322955

September 2004

Internal Status: Released to Regions

External Status: Released to Public

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Research Contractor:

Casella Stanger, Judith Lowe (Independent Consultant) and ENTEC, under the co-ordination of Casella Stanger.

This project was funded by our Science Group, which provides scientific knowledge, tools and techniques to enable us to protect and manage the environment as effectively as possible.

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